

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A laces tying device for ~~laces extending along a laced structure in a first direction,~~ tying the ends of a lace having two ends of the lace being threaded into a structure having opposing portions extending along an axis such that opposing portions of the structure are urged toward the axis when the lace ends are pulled comprising: a body provided with one or more apertures in an outer surface thereof adapted to receive a the two ends of the lace in the one or more apertures of the body; ~~a with which the device is used and provided with readily~~ releasable fastening means adapted to fasten the two ends of the lace in the one or more apertures; and clip means comprising a retaining arm ~~extending parallel to the first direction and~~ mounted on the outer surface of the body such that it extends in parallel with the axis in use, by a hinge with a spring-loaded acting around a hinge pin provided on the outer surface of the body, ~~said the~~ hinge configured to biasing the retaining arm towards the outer surface and over the aperture in the outer surface of the body, and the retaining arm being arranged to retain overlapping portions of the two ends of the lace between the retaining arm and the outer surface of the body over the one or more apertures in the body. ~~which, in use, extend from the one or more apertures.~~

2. (previously presented) A laces tying device as claimed in claim 1, in which the one or more apertures are intersected by a passage, the readily releasable fastening means comprising a spring-loaded clamping element.

3. (previously presented) A laces tying device as claimed in claim 2, in which the clamping element is provided with one or more apertures provided in the body.